Day 6 - Deployment Preparation and Staging Environment Setup

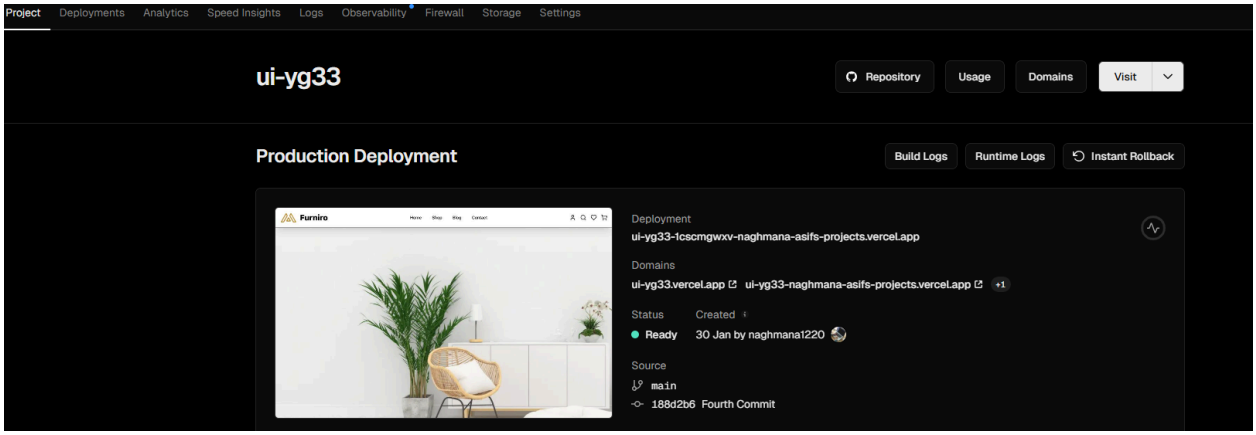
On **Day 6**, we focus on preparing our marketplace for **deployment** by setting up a **staging environment**, configuring **hosting platforms**, and ensuring the application is ready for customers. Building on the **testing and optimization** work from **Day 5**, this stage ensures that the marketplace runs smoothly in a **production-like environment**. Additionally, we learn about **industry-standard practices** for managing different environments, including **non-production (TRN, DEV, SIT)** and **production (UAT, PROD, DR)**.

Step 1: Hosting Platform Setup

1) Choose Platform for deployment

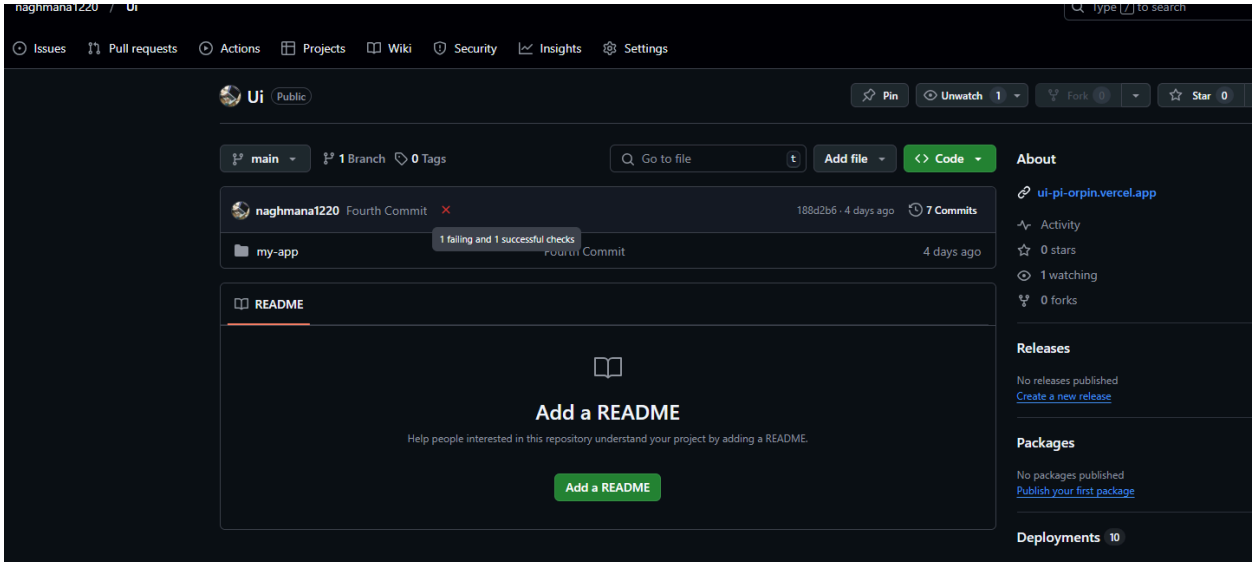
For deploying our marketplace, we have chosen **Vercel** as the hosting platform. Vercel offers a **fast, reliable, and developer-friendly** deployment process, making it an ideal choice for **Next.js applications**. It provides seamless integration with **GitHub**, automatic deployments on every push, and

built-in support for **environment variables**. Additionally, Vercel ensures **optimized performance, scalability, and security** for our staging and production environments.



2) Connect Repository

I have successfully connected my **GitHub repository** to **Vercel** for seamless deployment. After logging into Vercel, I selected the **"New Project"** option and imported my repository



Step 2: Environment Variable Configuration

1)Create .env.local File

To securely manage sensitive information, I created a `.env.local` file in the root directory of my project. This file stores important **environment variables** such as API keys and database credentials.

For example:

NEXT_PUBLIC_SANITY_PROJECT_ID=your_project_id

NEXT_PUBLIC_SANITY_DATASET=production

API_KEY=your_api_key

2) Upload Variables to Hosting Platform

After creating the `.env.local` file, I securely uploaded the environment variables to **Vercel** to ensure they are available in the deployment environment. I navigated to **Vercel Dashboard** → **Project Settings** → **Environment Variables**, then added each variable manually. This ensures that sensitive data like **API keys** and **database credentials** remain secure and are not exposed in the codebase.

Step 3: Deploy to Staging

1. Deploy Application:

After configuring the environment variables, I deployed the application on **Vercel**. Vercel automatically detected my project settings and initiated the **build and deployment process**. Once the deployment was complete, I verified that the staging URL was working correctly, ensuring that the

application loads without errors and functions as expected.

2) Validate Deployment:

Once the application was deployed on **Vercel**, I validated the deployment by thoroughly checking the staging environment. I ensured that the **build process** completed successfully without any errors. Then, I tested the application's **basic functionality**, including key features like product listings, navigation, and cart functionality,and user interface to confirm that everything was working as expected.

Step 4: Staging Environment Testing

1. Testing Types:

To ensure the application's stability and performance, I conducted different types of testing in the **staging environment**:

- **Functional Testing:** Verified that all features, such as product listing, search, and cart operations, work correctly.

- **Performance Testing:** Used tools like **Lighthouse** and **GTmetrix** to analyze page speed, responsiveness, and overall performance.

- **Security Testing:** Ensured secure API communications, validated input fields to prevent vulnerabilities like SQL injection, and checked for HTTPS enforcement.

2. Test Case Reporting:

I documented all test cases and their outcomes in a **CSV file** for structured reporting. Each test case included details such as the **Test Case ID**, **Description**, **Steps**, **Expected Result**, **Actual Result**, **Status**, and **Remarks**. This helped track the progress of the testing phase and provided a clear record of any issues encountered and resolved

Test Case ID	Description	Steps	Expected Result	Actual Result	Status	Remarks
TC001	Validate product listing	Open product page > Verify products are listed	Products displayed correctly	Products displayed correctly	Passed	No issues found
TC002	Check cart functionality	Add product to cart > Verify cart updates correct pro	Cart updates correctly with item	Cart updates correctly with item	Passed	Works as expected
TC003	Test category search functionality	Search a product by name > Check if correct display	Correct product displayed search	Correct product displayed search	Passed	Search works as expected
TC004	Test product filter functionality	Use filter options > Select a category and apply filter	Products filtered selected category	Products filtered selected category	Passed	Filter applied correctly
TC005	Test API communication	Disconnect API > Refresh page	Show fallback message	Fallback message shown	Passed	Handled gracefully
TC006	Validate product detail page	Open product page > Verify product details displaye	Product details correctly displayed	Product details correctly displayed	Passed	Dynamic route works correctly
TC007	Check checkout process	Proceed to checkout > Verify correct products select	Correct products,total price shown	Correct products ,total price showr	Passed	Checkout works as expected
TC008	Validate input fields	Fill in all form fields with valid data > Submit form	Form submits correctly valid inputs	Form submits correctly valid inputs	Passed	Input validation works correctly

3. Performance Testing:

I have uploaded the performance testing report, generated using tools like Lighthouse, to my GitHub repository. This is done to ensure transparency and to share the performance analysis results.